

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 82 and add new Claim 83 as follows. All the claims that are currently under consideration, including those that are not amended herein, are set forth below.

63. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 82, wherein the self-dispersing pigment is a self-dispersing carbon black to the surface of which at least one hydrophilic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group.

64. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 63, wherein the hydrophilic group is anionic.

65. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 64, wherein the resin encapsulating a coloring material has an anionic hydrophilic group at the surface thereof.

66. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 63, wherein the hydrophilic group is cationic.

67. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 66, wherein the resin encapsulating a coloring material has a cationic hydrophilic group at the surface thereof.

68. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 82, further comprising a pigment dispersant.

69. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 63, further comprising a pigment dispersant having an anionic hydrophilic group when the hydrophilic group bonded to the surface of the self-dispersing carbon black is anionic.

70. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 63, further comprising a pigment dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group when the hydrophilic group bonded to the surface of the self-dispersing carbon black is cationic.

73. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 82, wherein the pigment and the coloring material have the same color.

71-72. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously presented) The ink according to Claim 82, wherein the coloring material is encapsulated in a microcapsule made of the resin.

75. (Previously presented) An ink cartridge, comprising an ink container containing an ink according to Claim 82.

76. (Previously presented) A recording unit, comprising:  
an ink container containing an ink according to Claim 82,  
a recording head, and  
means for feeding the ink from the ink container to the recording head.

77. (Previously presented) An ink set comprising a first ink and a second ink in combination, wherein the first ink is an ink according to Claim 82, and each of the first and second inks has a color selected from the group consisting of yellow, magenta, cyan, black, red, green and blue.

78. (Previously presented) An image recording process, comprising the step of applying an ink according to Claim 82 to a recording medium by an ink-jet process.

79. (Previously presented) An image recording process, comprising the step of applying at least two color inks to a recording medium using an ink-jet method to form a multi-color image, wherein one ink is an ink according to Claim 66 or 70, and the other ink comprises a compound having an anionic group.

80. (Previously presented) An image recording apparatus, comprising:  
an ink container containing an ink according to Claim 82; and  
an ink-jet head for ejecting the ink.

81. (Previously presented) An image recording apparatus, comprising:  
ink containers containing first and second inks respectively, and a recording head for ejecting the respective inks, wherein the first ink is an ink according to Claim 66 or 70, and the second ink is an anionic ink.

82. (Currently amended) An aqueous ink for an ink-jet printing process comprising:  
a self-dispersing pigment and a resin encapsulating a coloring material, both of which are dispersed in an aqueous medium at a ~~certain~~ solid concentration of about 8 percent by weight based on the total weight of the ink,  
the resin encapsulating the coloring material being contained in a sufficient amount to provide rub-resistance to an image produced with the ink,  
wherein the ink provides an ink jet recorded image with a certain optical density that is equivalent to that produced with an ink containing the self-dispersing pigment as a sole colorant at the ~~certain~~ solid concentration of about 8 percent, and wherein the encapsulated coloring material is an oil-soluble dye or a water-insoluble pigment.

83. (New) An aqueous ink for an ink-jet printing process comprising:  
a self-dispersing pigment and a resin encapsulating a coloring material, both of which are dispersed in an aqueous medium,  
the resin encapsulating the coloring material being contained in a sufficient amount to provide rub-resistance to an image produced with the ink,

wherein the ink provides an ink jet recorded image with a certain optical density that is equivalent to that produced with an ink which is the same as the aqueous ink except for containing the self-dispersing pigment as a sole colorant in the same amount as the total amount of the self-dispersing pigment and the resin encapsulating a coloring material, and wherein the encapsulated coloring material is an oil-soluble dye or a water-insoluble pigment.